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No. 142

RALEIGH, N. C.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1953

GENERAL CONDITIONS DECLINE

The very dry situation which existed throughout most of the State on August 1 was only partially relieved during the month. Moderate showers were received in scattered areas during the first week of August with fairly heavy rains falling in coastal counties and mountain areas. Over a very large part of the State, however, these rains were not of sufficient

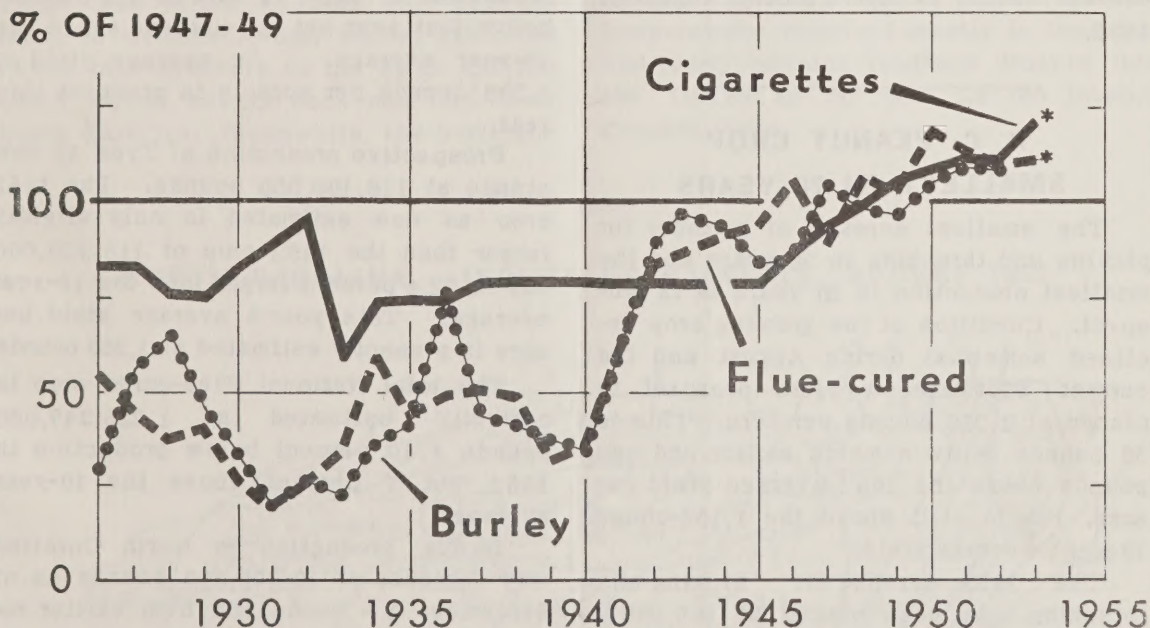
(Continued on Page 2)

PROSPECTIVE FLUE-CURED PRODUCTION DECLINES

Flue-cured tobacco production in North Carolina is estimated at 793,375,000 pounds as of September 1. This represents a small decline from the Special Mid-August estimate of 799,995,000 pounds and is 11.7 percent below the 898,090,000 pounds harvested in 1952. The 1942-51 average production for the State is 775,-

(Continued on Page 2)

TOBACCO AND CIGARETTE PRICES



SEASON AV. FARM PRICES FOR FLUE-CURED AND BURLEY, AND MANUFACTURERS PRICES (EXCLUDING TAXES) FOR CIGARETTES

*PREL. EST.; NO 1953 DATA FOR BURLEY

GENERAL CONDITION (Cont'd)

magnitude to bring about any effective relief. During the second week of the month hurricane "Barbara" struck the coastal areas causing heavy rains along the coast and generous showers over most of the coastal plains area. Elsewhere in the State precipitation was negligible. During the third week most areas received light rainfall, and local showers in many areas were sufficient to relieve the situation to some extent. Many areas, however, continued very dry. Practically no rain fell in the State during the last week of the month.

AUGUST, 1953, EGG PRODUCTION

North Carolina flocks produced a total of 105 million eggs during the month of August 1953. This is 15 percent above the 91 million eggs produced during August of 1952. The total average number of layers during August 1953 is placed at 8,068,000 or 12 percent above the 7,208,000 monthly average number of layers during August of 1952.

N. C. PEANUT CROP SMALLEST IN 20 YEARS

The smallest acreage of peanuts for picking and threshing in 30 years and the smallest production in 20 years is in prospect. Condition of the growing crop declined somewhat during August and the current September 1 yield prospect is placed at 1,250 pounds per acre. This is 50 pounds below a month earlier and 300 pounds below the 1952 average yield per acre, but is still above the 1,106-pound 1942-51 average yield.

The 1953 acreage for picking and threshing has been placed at 185,000 - or 8 percent below 1952 and 22 percent below the 237,000 acres harvested in 1951. Acreage allotment reductions are primarily responsible for the smaller 1953 acreage for picking and threshing. Total production is placed at 231,250,000 pounds

for 1953, only 74 percent of the 311,550 pounds produced last year.

Drouth conditions have been less severe this summer in the important peanut producing areas than in some other areas of the State, but peanut areas have experienced enough drouth conditions to prevent full development of a crop which looked good early in the season.

TOBACCO (Continued)

291,000 pounds - nearly 68 percent of the total United States average for this period.

The estimated production of Type 11 tobacco as of September 1, at 246,975,000 pounds, showed no change from the August 15 estimate but was 7.5 percent below the August 1 estimate and was a fourth less than production last year. A yield of 925 pounds per acre is expected this season, the lowest since 1943.

Production of Type 12 is currently set at 430,300,000 pounds - a drop of nearly 7,000,000 since the middle of August. If the present estimate materializes, production of Type 12 will be 4.8 percent below last year but 8.8 percent above the 10-year average. An average yield of 1,300 pounds per acre is in prospect this year.

Prospective production of Type 13 now stands at 116,100,000 pounds. The 1953 crop as now estimated is only slightly larger than the 1952 crop of 115,920,000 but is 22.4 percent larger than the 10-year average. This year's average yield per acre is presently estimated at 1,350 pounds.

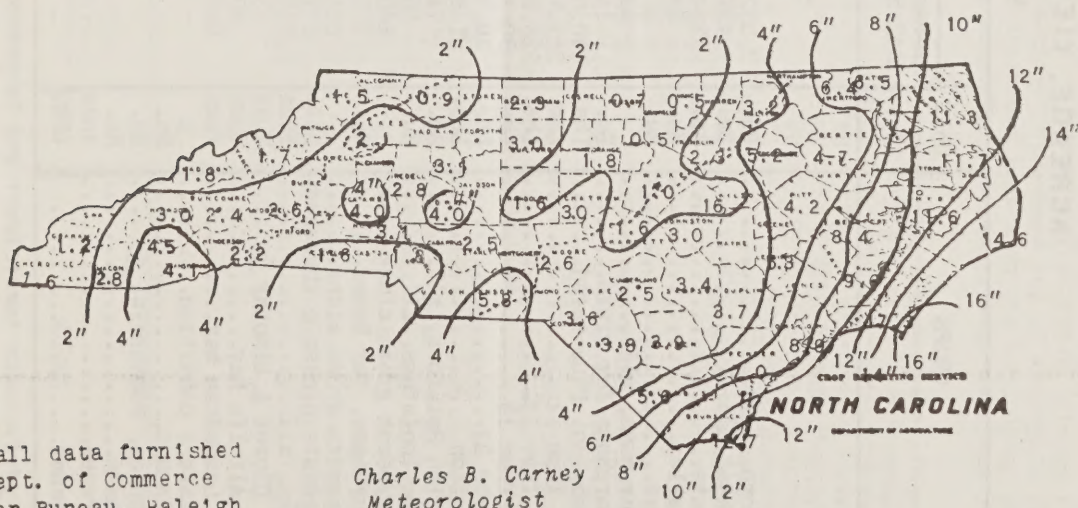
The total National Flue-cured crop is currently estimated at 1,225,347,000 pounds - 10 percent below production in 1952 but 7 percent above the 10-year average.

Burley production in North Carolina was forecast at 19,775,000 pounds as of September 1 - unchanged from earlier reports this season. Last year's crop weighed 20,160,000 pounds. The 10-year average production for the State is 15,567,000 pounds. A yield of 1,750 pounds per acre is expected this year - a record high but the same as 1951.

Such rain as did fall over North Carolina during August (aside from the storm rains near the coast) came mostly during the first nine days, and in connection with a vigorous frontal passage on the 18th. The earlier showers were also related to weather fronts, which, lying between high pressure to the north and the south moved weakly back and forth over North Carolina. Meanwhile, the hurricane

Temperatures during August were most of the time seasonable, averaging just slightly higher than the normal, or long-term averages for the month. It was comparatively hot during the first and last weeks and for a three-day period mid-month, when the mercury occasionally reached the 100 mark at some places. Separating these three hot periods were two cooler periods, when highest daytime temperatures remained mostly in the 80's, and early morning readings dropped into the fifties as far east as the interior Coastal Plain.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL, AUGUST 1953



ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS, 1952 AND INDICATED SEPTEMBER 1, 1953, NORTH CAROLINA

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE		YIELD		PRODUCTION		
		Average 1942-51	Harvested 1952	Indicated 1953	Average 1942-51		Indicated 1953	
		Thousands		Units		Thousands		
Corn, all.....	Bu.	2,232	2,203	2,203	27.4	25.5	61,059	58,380
Wheat, all.....	Bu.	427	396	388	16.1	21.0	6,860	7,760
Oats.....	Bu.	354	373	403	28.5	34.0	10,206	15,314
Barley.....	Bu.	39	43	40	26.2	32.5	1,001	1,480
Rye.....	Bu.	26	15	14	12.0	15.0	1,303	1,210
Sorghums, all.....	Bu.	33	58	80	-	-	-	-
Sorghums for grain.....	Bu.	143/	43	64	26.43/	27.0	3903/	1,600
Tobacco, Flue-cured.....	Lbs.	670.0	735.0	684	1,154	1,222	775,291	793,375
Type 11.....	Lbs.	261.7	287.0	267	1,084	1,150	284,910	246,975
Type 12.....	Lbs.	328.2	356.0	331	1,203	1,270	395,530	430,300
Type 13.....	Lbs.	80.1	92.0	86	1,180	1,260	94,852	116,100
Type 31.....	Lbs.	10.3	12.0	11.3	1,487	1,680	15,567	19,775
Cotton.....	Lbs.	719	745	7624/	345	366	5224/	4604/
Irish Potatoes, all.....	Bu.	74	44	47	132	124	9,513	6,204
Sweetpotatoes, all.....	Bu.	60	39	45	107	100	6,492	4,050
Soybeans grown alone.....	Bu.	400	432	393	-	-	-	-
Soybeans, for beans.....	Bu.	252	290	259	13.4	16.5	3,434	3,885
Peanuts grown alone.....	Lbs.	294	210	193	-	-	-	-
Peanuts picked & threshed.....	Tons	277	201	185	1,106	1,550	304,009	231,250
Hay, all.....	Tons	1,266	1,227	1,207	1,01	1.08	1,280	1,128
Clover & timothy 1/.....	Tons	93	106	105	1.14	1.10	106	116
Alfalfa hay.....	Tons	30	70	77	2.10	2.05	64	144
Lespedeza hay.....	Tons	509	518	513	1.08	1.10	551	570
Pasture condition.....	%	-	-	-	-	-	84	76
Peaches.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	1,731	1,648
Apples, commercial 2/.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	1,067	2,053
Pears.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	179	172
Grapes.....	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	3.8	2.7
Pecans.....	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	2,290	2,546

1/ Excludes sweetclover and lespedeza hay.

2/ Estimates of the commercial crop refer to the total production of apples in the commercial apple areas of each state.

3/ Short-time average.

4/ 500-lb. gross weight bales.

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS, 1952 AND INDICATED SEPTEMBER 1, 1953, UNITED STATES

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE			YIELD			PRODUCTION		
		Average 1942-51	Harvested 1952	Indicated 1953	Average 1942-51	1952	Indicated 1953	Average 1942-51	1952	Indicated 1953
		Thousands			Units			Thousands		
Corn, all.....	Bu.	86,447	81,359	80,694	35.2	40.6	39.9	3,036,380	3,306,735	3,216,007
Wheat, all.....	Bu.	45,249	50,348	46,105	17.6	20.9	17.4	797,237	1,052,801	1,169,307
Oats.....	Bu.	39,503	38,643	39,433	33.5	32.8	30.6	1,324,614	1,268,280	1,205,500
Barley.....	Su.	11,831	8,264	8,455	25.1	27.5	28.0	295,299	227,008	236,999
Rye.....	Bu.	2,108	1,285	1,375	12.2	11.5	12.7	25,837	15,910	17,452
Sorghums, all.....	Bu.	14,108	10,841	13,617	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sorghums for grain.....	Bu.	7,347	5,089	6,848	18.4	16.4	17.6	137,263	83,316	120,215
Tobacco, all.....	Lbs.	1,677.4	1,773.0	1,653.6	1,158	1,272	1,229	1,948,844	2,254,855	2,034,697
Tobacco, flue-cured.....	Lbs.	996.9	1,111.3	1,033.9	1,144	1,229	1,189	1,144,616	1,365,341	1,225,347
Cotton.....	Lbs.	21,482	25,664	23,737 ^{4/}	271.4	282.7	306.6	12,215 ^{4/}	15,136 ^{4/}	15,159 ^{4/}
Irish potatoes, all.....	Bu.	2,265.2	1,398.0	1,501.7	191.2	248.6	253.7	411,007	347,504	380,926
Sweetpotatoes.....	Bu.	583.3	325.8	351.6	93.6	86.8	97.6	54,331	28,292	34,301
Soybeans grown alone.....	Bu.	13,300	15,643	15,781	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans, for beans.....	Bu.	11,114	14,075	14,335	19.7	20.7	19.5	219,596	291,682	279,725
Peanuts grown alone.....	Bu.	3,664	1,933	1,895	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts picked & threshed.....	Lbs.	2,951	1,459	-	714	928	931	2,062,522	1,354,010	1,411,720
Hay, all.....	Tons	74,666	74,664	74,967	1.37	1.40	1.39	102,296	104,424	104,440
Alfalfa.....	Tons	15,925	19,024	20,019	2.21	2.23	2.12	35,252	42,438	42,471
Clover & Timothy ^{1/}	Tons	22,087	21,683	21,276	1.40	1.46	1.42	31,024	31,755	30,299
Lespedeza.....	Tons	6,629	5,661	6,125	1.07	.91	.82	7,110	5,147	5,040
Pasture condition.....	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	78	70	63
Peaches ^{2/}	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	67,012	62,560	63,429
Apples, commercial ^{3/}	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	109,224	92,489	99,611
Pears.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,396	30,947	30,374
Grapes.....	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,874.2	3,173.4	2,773.2
Pecans.....	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	126,518	147,946	185,132

^{1/} Excludes sweetclover and lespedeza hay.

^{2/} Production includes some quantities unharvested on account of economic conditions.

^{3/} Estimates of the commercial crop refer to the total production of apples in the commercial apple areas of each state.

^{4/} 500-lb. gross weight bales.

SHORT HAY CROP IN PROSPECT

Current all hay average yield is forecast at .93 ton per acre - lowest since 1937. The 1953 acreage for harvest is currently forecast at 1,207,000 acres. With lespedeza and some other late hays suffering severely from drought, this full acreage may not be harvested since some hay crops will not attain sufficient height and also where farmers are grazing lespedeza and meadows due to a shortage of pasture grasses. Should the acreage forecast of 1,207,000 acres be realized, a crop of 1,128,000 tons would be obtained. This production is 207,000 tons below the July 1, 1953 prospective crop and the shortest crop since 1941. The 1,128,000 tons forecast for 1953, if realized, will be 15 percent below the 1,325,000 tons produced in 1952 and 12 percent below the 1942-51 average crop of 1,280,000 tons.

CORN PRODUCTION DOWN

Corn crop prospects declined still further during the hot, dry month of August. Early planted fields were largely past drought damage on August 1st when the yield forecast was placed at 27.0 bushels per acre. Late fields have suffered from dry soils in nearly all sections of the State, while some areas have been too dry for either early or late plantings to produce satisfactorily.

The current Sept. 1st forecast is placed at 58,380,000 bushels, or 1,101,000 bushels lower than a month earlier and 16,522,000 bushels below the July 1, 1953 forecast. This production forecast is based upon a current prospective yield of 26.5 bushels per acre on 2,203,000 acres.

PECAN CROP GOOD

Pecan production in North Carolina is estimated at 2,812,000 pounds. This is 266,000 pounds more than last year's 2,546,000 lb. crop, and 522,000 pounds above the 10-year average of 2,290,000 pounds.

GRAIN SORGHUM PROSPECTS DECLINE

The condition of grain sorghum, as of September 1, indicates that a crop of 1,600,000 bushels will be harvested this season, compared to the August 1 prospects of 1,728,000 bushels. If the present forecast materializes it will be the largest crop of record for the State, comparing with 1,161,000 bushels last year and 390,000 bushels for the 1942-51 average. The record production would be a result of increased acreage, not record yields.

An average yield of 25.0 bushels per acre is expected this season compared with an average of 27.0 bushels last year and the 1942-51 average yield of 26.4 bushels per acre.

SOYBEAN YIELD AND PRODUCTION BELOW LAST YEAR

Based on growers' September 1 reports, soybean production in North Carolina is currently estimated at 3,885,000 bushels - a 19 percent decline from last year's production. If realized, this production will be the lowest since 1948, but will be 451,000 bushels above the 1942-1951 average production.

The 1953 yield is currently estimated at 15 bu. per acre - 1.5 bu. below the record high yields of 1951 and 1952.

SWEETPOTATO PROSPECTS DECLINE

Prospects for the North Carolina sweetpotato crop were reduced during August due to the continued dry weather and above normal temperatures in many sections of the State. Current estimates place production at 4,050,000 bushels -- 10 percent below the August 1 estimate.

The September 1 yield estimate of 90 bushels per acre is down 10 bushels from the previous month's estimate and compares with 100 bushels per acre produced in 1952.

SEPTEMBER 1, COTTON REPORT

Cotton production in North Carolina is estimated at 460,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight. This is the same as the August 1 forecast and compares with 569,000 bales harvested last year and the 10-year (1942-51) average production of 522,000 bales. A crop of 460,000 bales would be 19.2 percent less than last year and 11.9 percent below the 10-year average production.

The condition of the crop is reported at 70 percent of normal as of September 1. The 1942-51 average condition on September 1 is 76 percent of normal.

Total acreage for harvest is now estimated at 762,000 acres -- 17,000 acres more than was harvested in 1952.

Lint yield per acre is now estimated at 290 pounds. This compares with 366 pounds last year and the 1942-51 average yield of 345 pounds. Yields for the current year have been lowered by prolonged hot-dry weather and heavy weevil infestation. Red spider infestation has also been heavy in some localities.

The U. S. Cotton crop is estimated at 15,159,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight). This is slightly more (0.2%) than the 15,136,000 bales harvested last year but 24 percent above the 10-year average. Production prospects are below last year in all states except South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas. For details of the report, by States, (See table on page 8)

RECORD HIGH AUGUST MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production on North Carolina farms totaled 162 million pounds during the month of August. This was a new record high production for the month of August and was 7 percent above the 151 million pounds produced during the same period a year ago, but was 2 percent below July production of 165 million pounds.

The decrease in total production from

July was due partly to the decrease in pasture conditions. Pastures generally afforded very little green feed during August resulting in rather extensive winter feeding practices, especially in the major milk-producing areas of the Piedmont section.

FRUIT PROSPECTS BELOW LAST YEAR

Fruit prospects on September 1, with the exception of pears and grapes, were somewhat below the previous month's estimate. Drouth conditions during the month cut prospective apple yields and late peach yields to some extent but did not materially affect the other fruit crops. The State's commercial Peach crop has been harvested and growers reported a favorable marketing season. The Apple crop has been cut considerably by freeze damage, reducing the number set, and drouth damage, causing the fruit to mature at slightly smaller than normal size. However, growers are reporting good marketing conditions and very favorable prices.

The September 1 forecast places North Carolina Peach production at 1,180,000 bushels - a decrease of 28 percent from the 1952 crop of 1,648,000 bushels and 32 percent below the 10-year average of 1,731,000 bushels.

Apple production for 1953 is currently estimated at 873,000 bushels - a decline of 7.5 percent from the August 1 estimate. If realized, this production will be 57 percent below last year's record-high production of 2,053,000 bushels and 18 percent below the 10-year average production of 1,067,000 bushels.

The Pear crop is now estimated at 147,000 bushels - unchanged from the August 1 estimate. This compares with a production of 172,000 bushels in 1952 and a 10-year average production of 179,000 bushels.

The prospective Grape production for the State on September 1 showed no change from the August 1 estimate. Production is now estimated at 2,600 tons - 100 tons below last year's production and 1,240 tons below the 10-year average production of 3,840 tons.

FARM REPORT

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S. R. Newell, Assistant Chief

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COTTON CONDITION, ESTIMATED ACREAGE FOR HARVEST AND PRODUCTION, SEPTEMBER 1, 1953, ALL STATES

STATE	Acreage For Harvest 1953 Crop 1/	Sept. 1 Condition			Lint Yield per Acre			Production (500# Bales) 2/		
		Average 1942-1951	1952 Crop	Indicated 1953 Crop	Average 1942-1951	1952 Crop	Indicated 1953 Crop	Average 1942-1951	1952 Crop	Indicated 1953 Crop
	(000)	(Percent)			(Pounds)			(000) Bales		
N. C.	762	76	77	70	345	366	290	522	569	460
Mo.	494	76	81	69	379	385	321	345	394	330
Va.	29	-	-	-	362	424	331	20	23	20
S. C.	1,075	73	61	72	315	286	324	697	657	725
Ga.	1,354	71	61	71	252	245	269	716	729	760
Fla.	64	72	71	58	192	271	210	15	30	28
Tenn.	891	76	68	72	364	366	337	543	638	625
Ala.	1,580	72	61	70	285	275	301	911	890	990
Miss.	2,360	73	71	80	337	385	391	1,670	1,906	1,920
Ark.	1,849	73	66	73	334	345	331	1,355	1,366	1,275
La.	910	68	72	78	314	408	398	568	756	755
Okla.	993	63	40	80	160	105	193	429	264	400
Tex.	8,977	71	59	73	183	171	206	3,162	3,808	3,850
N. Mex.	312	88	94	92	483	527	485	173	330	315
Ariz.	675	90	92	93	525	682	690	312	948	970
Calif.	1,396	93	93	82	615	622	593	763	1,818	1,725
Other States	16	-	-	-	355	337	339	13	10	11
U. S.	23,737	73	69	76	271.4	282.7	306.6	12,215	15,136	15,159

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Allowances made for interstate movement of seed cotton for ginning.